PoL 14 Viets
XR PoL 15-2 Viets

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TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA-20

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-08 L-04 NSAE-00
NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 AID-28 RSR-01
/120 W

R 170511Z JUL 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7448
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11312

CINCPAC FOR POLAC

SUB: ELIMINATION OF LOWER HOUSE CANDIDATES

REF: SAIGON A-88 PoL 14 Viets

1. SOME VIETNAMESE DAILIES CARRY REPORTS JULY 17 THAT THE LOWER HOUSE CANDIDACIES OF EX-SENATOR TRAN VAN DON IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE AND OUTSPOKEN LEFTIST DEPUTY NGO CONG DUC IN VINH BINH PROVINCE HAVE BEEN REJECTED BY THE LOCAL ELECTION COUNCILS, ALONG WITH THOSE OF LESSER-KNOWN INDIVIDUALS IN OTHER CONSTITUENCIES.

2. THE DIRECTOR OF CABINET OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TELLS US HE HAS NO REPORTS ON THE ABOVE BUT EXPECTS TO HAVE MORE INFORMATION MONDAY.

3. THESE PRESS REPORTS MAY BE MERELY RUMOR SINCE DECISIONS OF LOCAL ELECTION COUNCILS ON CANDIDACIES ARE ONLY TODAY (JULY 17) BEING MADE PUBLIC IN EACH CONSTITUENCY AT MEETINGS WITH THE CANDIDATES (DETAILS OF THIS PROCEDURE ARE IN LAW TRANSMITTED REF AIRGRAM). WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO VERIFY REJECTION OF ANY WELL-

(2)

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Szymkowicz DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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KNOWN CANDIDATES BY MONDAY (JULY 19).

4. DECISIONS OF LOCAL ELECTION COUNCILS ARE SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY A CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL, WHICH IN 1967 REVERSED THE LOCAL COUNCILS IN A NUMBER OF CASES.
BUNKER

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POL 14 Viet S
xR Soc 11-5 Viet S
xR PPB 9 US

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ACTION EA-20

INFO OCT-01 BNDD-05 SNM-01 AID-28 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09
H-02 INR-08 L-04 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01
SS-20 USIA-12 UPW-01 IO-16 RSR-01 /143 W
109976

R 171020Z JUL 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7465

UNCLAS SAIGON 11321

SUBJECT: THIEU REFUTES ALLEGATIONS OF GAIN FROM DRUG TRAFFIC

REF : SAIGON 11291 POL 14 Viet S xR PPB 9 US xR Soc 11-5 Viet S

1. PRESIDENT THIEU'S PRESS OFFICE JULY 17 ISSUED FOLLOWING NEWS RELEASE IN ENGLISH DEPLORING A REPORT BY NBC CORRESPONDENT PHIL BRADY ALLEGING THIEU GAINS FROM DRUG TRAFFIC AND WARNING THAT QUOTE ADEQUATE MEASURES UNQUOTE MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST QUOTE IRRESPONSIBLE AND MALICIOUS CORRESPONDENTS UNQUOTE.

2. BEGIN TEXT. THE OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM GREATLY DEPLORES A SHOCKING REPORT ALLEGEDLY MADE BY NBC SAIGON CORRESPONDENT PHIL BRADY, PUBLISHING SLANDEROUS RUMORS AGAINST THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, ACCUSING HIM OF USING FUNDS FROM THE ILLEGAL DRUG MARKET TO HELP FINANCE HIS CAMPAIGN FOR ELECTION THIS FALL.

3. THIS SHAMEFUL DISPLAY OF JOURNALISTIC IRRESPONSIBILITY WHICH MAKES SENSATIONALISM PREVAIL OVER TRUTHFULNESS IS A DISGRACE TO THE JOURNALISTIC PROFESSION. IT ALSO, WILLINGLY OR NOT, HELPS THE COMMUNIST AGGRESSORS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE AND SABOTAGE THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM.

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4. THE GOVERNMENT EARNESTLY HOPES THAT THE MANAGERS OF NEWS AGENCIES AND EDITORS OF NEWSPAPERS WILL CAREFULLY SELECT THEIR CORRESPONDENTS IN ASSIGNING THEM TO VIET-NAM, AND USE DISCRIMINATING JUDGMENT IN CHECKING THE VERACITY OF THEIR REPORTINGS BEFORE PUBLISHING SENSATIONAL ARTICLES SENT BY UNSCRUPULOUS REPORTERS.

5. THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO USE ADEQUATE MEASURES AGAINST IRRESPONSIBLE AND MALICIOUS CORRESPONDENTS WHO ABUSE THE HOSPITALITY OF VIET-NAM AND ABUSE THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN SPREADING FALSEHOODS AND SLANDERS AGAINST LEADERS IN THE GOVERNMENT, THEREBY PROVIDING HELP AND COMFORT TO THE COMMUNIST ENEMY. END TEXT.
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